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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/501,826	07/19/2004	Pradip Mandal	IN 020001	8716	
24737 7	24737 7590 01/17/2006			EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INT	ELLECTUAL PROPER	TRAN, ANH Q			
P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			ARTONII	FAFER NUMBER	
		2819			
			DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ESL

Office Action Summary    10/561,826			Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Anh Q. Tran  - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Later StX (s) MONTHS from the maining date of this communication, 19 may reply the strain shall be stated to the control of the communication of the state of the communication, 19 may reduce they state of the communication is non-final.  - Application of Claims  - Application of Claims  - Application of Claims  - Application of Claims  - Application papers  - Priority in the above claim(s) is a reduced.  - Claim(s) 1 may reduce the priority documents have been received.  - Claim(s) 2 may reduce the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  - See the attached detailed Office	Office Action Summary							
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WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Elementor of time may be available under the provision of 30° FRI 11360, him overs, however, may a reply be timely lifed after 500 (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. of 10° FRI 11360 to the mailing date of this communication of 10° FRI 11360 to the mailing date of this communication. Any reply received by the office leter than these months after the mailing date of this communication. Any reply received by the Office leter than these months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any seemed patient time aljustrement. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).  Status  1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filled on 09 November 2005.  2a) □ This action is FINAL.  2b) □ This action is non-final.  3□ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Ctalms  4) □ Claim(s) 1.8 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) □ Claim(s) 1.8 is/are allowed.  6) □ Claim(s) 2.8 is/are objected to.  8) □ Claim(s) 3.8 is/are objected to.  8) □ Claim(s) 3.9 is/are objected to.  9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) □ The drawing(s) filled on is/are: a) □ accepted or b) □ objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) inducing the correction is required if the drawing(s) be deed to see 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) □ All b □ Some * C) □ None of:  1. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Applica				orrespondence address				
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Application/Control Number: 10/501,826 Page 2

Art Unit: 2819

## **DETAILED ACTION**

# Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States
- 2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris et al. (5,926,056).

Claim 1, Morris shows a voltage limiting semiconductor pass gate circuit (104 and 105, Fig. 2), comprising a first transistor (105) being operatively connected between an input node (106) and an output node (107) of said pass gate circuit, the first transistor having a control electrode (114) being biased to a supply voltage (Vss, col. 2, lines 15-16), characterized by the control electrode being biased to the supply voltage by a resistor (108) connected in series with two back-to- back connected diode elements (201 and 202).

Claim 2, Morris shows a semiconductor pass gate circuit according to claim 1, wherein said diode elements are comprised of diode connected transistors (NMOS transistor).

## Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

further comprises a second transistor being operatively connected
 between said input node and said output node, the second transistor
 having a further control electrode coupled to the control electrode of the
 first transistor via the two back-to- back connected diode elements.

Page 3

the I/O cell having an input terminal an output terminal and at least one level detector circuit coupled between said input terminal and said output terminal, characterized by the semiconductor pass gate circuit in accordance with claim 1, coupled between said input terminal and said level detector circuit.

#### Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Application/Control Number: 10/501,826 Page 4

Art Unit: 2819

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Q. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANH Q.TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1/12/06